

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please Amend Claims 1 and 16-20 as follows. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.:

1. (Currently Amended) A charged-particle beam drawing ~~data-creation~~ method of supplying bit information created from design pattern data in a scanning direction of a charged-particle beam, ON/OFF-controlling the charged-particle beam to irradiate a sample surface, and exposing a two-dimensional pattern by scanning the charged-particle beam, the method comprising the steps of:

extracting a cell pattern as one unit of a periodic structure from design pattern data having a periodic structure, and registering the cell pattern;

creating arrangement data to be rearranged in a basic drawing region defined by a charged-particle beam exposure apparatus using the cell pattern, and registering the arrangement data; and

cutting out data from the cell pattern in accordance with information of the arrangement data, and creating data of the basic drawing region.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the basic drawing region includes all or some of regions of a plurality of cell patterns.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cell pattern is not smaller in size than the basic drawing region.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cell pattern is smaller in size than the basic drawing region.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the basic drawing region includes at least some of cell patterns not smaller in size than the basic drawing region and some of cell patterns smaller in size than the basic drawing region.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cell pattern is not less than twice the size of the basic drawing region.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cell pattern is formed from bitmap data.

8. (Previously Presented) A charged-particle beam exposure apparatus for supplying bit information created from design pattern data in a scanning direction of a charged-particle beam, ON/OFF-controlling the charged-particle beam to irradiate a sample surface, and exposing a two-dimensional pattern by scanning the charged-particle beam, the apparatus comprising:

means for extracting a cell pattern as one unit of a periodic structure from design pattern data having a periodic structure, and registering the cell pattern;

means for creating arrangement data to be rearranged in a basic drawing region defined by the charged-particle beam exposure apparatus using the cell pattern, and registering the arrangement data; and

means for cutting out data from the cell pattern in accordance with information of the arrangement data, and creating data of the basic drawing region.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the basic drawing region includes all or some of regions of a plurality of cell patterns.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the cell pattern is not smaller in size than the basic drawing regions.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the cell pattern is smaller in size than the basic drawing region.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the basic drawing region includes at least some of cell patterns not smaller in size than the basic drawing region and some of cell patterns smaller in size than the basic drawing region.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the cell pattern is not less than twice the size of the basic drawing region.

14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the cell pattern is formed from bitmap data.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:
a plurality of charged-particle beams and a plurality of beam-ON/OFF means arranged in m rows \times n columns,
wherein in a drawing method of drawing patterns in parallel with each other in respective basic drawing regions by the charged-particle beams,
bitmap drawing data are supplied in parallel with each other to said respective beam-ON/OFF means in the scanning direction of the charged-particle beam, and
the plurality of charged-particle beams are controlled to irradiate a sample surface, thereby drawing a two-dimensional pattern.

16. (Currently Amended) A device manufacturing method of irradiating a charged-particle beam to a surface based on data ~~[[in]]~~ of a basic drawing region defined by a charged-particle beam exposure apparatus, and ~~forming a pattern~~ patterning on the surface in accordance with a design pattern, ~~said~~ the method comprising the steps of:

extracting a cell pattern as one unit of a periodic structure from the design pattern data, ~~which should be formed on the surface~~;

creating arrangement data used in a case of ~~converting~~ forming the data of the basic drawing region from data of the cell pattern ~~into the data of the basic drawing region~~; and

~~converting forming the data of the basic drawing region~~ from the data of the cell pattern ~~into the data of the basic drawing region~~, based on the created arrangement data.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the ~~pattern~~ step of irradiating a charged-particle beam is sequentially ~~formed on the surface using the irradiated charged-particle beam for~~ executed in each of a plurality of the basic drawing regions, and the step of extracting the cell pattern and the step of creating the arrangement data ~~complete each processing are completed~~ before ~~starting of the processing of the step of forming the pattern on the surface~~ irradiating in the first basic drawing region is started.

18. (Currently Amended) A charged-particle beam exposure apparatus for ~~forming a pattern~~ patterning on a surface in accordance with a design pattern, ~~said the~~ apparatus comprising:

a main body for irradiating a charged-particle beam to the surface based on data ~~[[in]]~~ of a basic drawing region defined by the charged-particle beam exposure apparatus; and

a controller for ~~converting~~ forming the data of the basic drawing region from data of a cell pattern, extracted as one unit of a periodic structure ~~[[of]]~~ from the design pattern data, ~~which should be formed on the surface, into the data of the basic drawing region,~~ based on a ~~conversion~~ parameter.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein ~~said~~ the controller cuts out some of the data of the cell pattern from the data of the whole cell pattern~~[[,]]~~ based on the ~~conversion~~ parameter, and the ~~conversion~~ parameter ~~sets up~~ includes a position for cutting out and a size for cutting out, ~~in order to be processed by the controller.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein ~~the pattern~~ is formed the apparatus executes patterning on the surface using a plurality of the charged-particle beams, and the main body ~~performs irradiating of~~ irradiates each of the plurality of charged-particle beams~~[[,]]~~ based on each of the data ~~[[in]]~~ of a plurality of the basic drawing regions.